

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 TRSE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4062

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, GV

SUBJECT: POLITICAL ASPECTS OF AGATT'S DROUGHT VISIT

REF: (A) CONAKRY 193, (B) CONAKRY 380

1. ON FEBRUARY 22 AND 23 EMBASSY OFFICER AND AGATT FROM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN ACCOMPANIED HIGH-LEVEL GUINEAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE DELEGATION HEADED BY INTERIOR, SECURITY AND JUSTICE DOMAIN MINISTER MOUSSA DIAKITE (WHO IS ALSO POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER) TO DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREA IN NORTHERN GUINEA (REF B). COMBINED GUINEAN-AMERICAN VISIT ACHIEVED OBJECTIVE OF VERIFYING SEVERITY OF DROUGHT, PERMITTING DETAILED DISCUSSION AND REVIEW WITH LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS OF STATISTICS INVOLVING COMPARATIVE RAINFALL AND CROP YIELD FOR 1977 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

2. VISIT ALSO PROVIDED OCCASION FOR DIAKITE TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE THAT GOVERNMENT IN CONKARY WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO DROUGHT-RELIEF PROBLEM AND THAT PRESENCE OF AMERICAN "EXPERTS" (SIC) IN GOG DELEGATION WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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SYMBOL OF PRIORITY WHICH PRESIDENT ATTACHES TO FINDING SOLUTIONS. DIAKITE CAME DOWN HARD ON PERPETRATORS OF BRUSH FIRES, OTHER PRACTICES ABUSIVE TO SOIL CONSERVATION AND CALLED FOR THEIR STATUTORY PUNISHMENT AS "CRIMINALS" BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL FICIALS. THEME WAS REPEATED IN MASS MEETINGS IN KOUNDARA AND GAOUAL FEDERATIONS AND REGIONAL CAPITAL OF MALI,

WITH GOVERNORS, POLICE AND OTHER PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN PROMINENT ATTENDANCE. DIAKITE EXPRESSED WARM THANKS TO US GOVERNMENT COOPERATION. SPECIFICALLY DIAKITE SAID THAT "PRESENCE OF THESE AMERICAN OFFICIALS BEARS WITNESS TO THE ACTIVE SOLIDARITY AND WILL OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO HELP GOG RESEARCH WAYS OF FIGHTING DROUGHT IN GUINEA. PARTY-STATE IS SENSITIVE TO THIS FRIENDLY GESTURE AND EXPRESSES ALL OF ITS THANKS TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT." GUINEAN RADIO CARRIED DIAKITE'S COMMENTS IN FULL ON FEBRUARY 23 AND 24 BROADCASTS.

3. BEFORE DEPARTURE, DELEGATION'S IMPENDING TRAVEL RECEIVED PERSONAL ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE IN THE FORUM OF WEEKLY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. TOURE, AT THAT TIME, ASSIGNED DIAKITE TO HEAD JOINT DELEGATION AND PROVIDED ONE OF TWO PERSONAL HELICOPTERS FOR DELEGATION'S USE. HELICOPTER PERMITTED EXCELLENT VIEW OF WIDE AREAS OF AFFECTED REGION. AS REPORTED REFTEL, MINISTER OF PLAN AND RESPECTIVE MINISTERS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TWO REGIONAL AREAS VISITED PARTICIPATED IN DELEGATION, FURTHER UNDERLINING IMPORTANCE GOG ATTACHED TO VISIT.

4. IN EACH AREA VISITED, AFTER JEEP-TOUR OF STUNTED AND UNHARVESTED RICE AND CORN FIELDS, WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF ENTIRE RICE-PRODUCING NORTHERN HALF OF COUNTRY, AMERICAN OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN WORKING SESSIONS WITH LOCAL AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS. DELEGATION SUBSEQUENTLY WAS INTRODUCED TO SIZEABLE GATHERINGS OF LOCAL POPULACE. CROWDS ASSEMBLED BY GOG AUTHRITIES NUMBERED BETWEEN ONE AND TWO THOUSAND IN MOST CASES. DELEGATION WAS OFFICIALLY WELCOMED BY LOCAL GOVERNOR WITH CAREFUL ATTENTION TO SPECIAL GREETINGS FOR THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THEIR ROLE. PRINCIPAL REMARKS BY DIAKITE, WHICH PROVIDED BASIS FOR LATER RADIO COVERAGE OF DELEGATIONS'S VISIT IN PARA 2 ABOVE, WAS MADE IN LABE, OWING TO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LABE AS THE SEAT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MUCH OF DISTRESSED AREA VISITED.

5. COMMENT: GUINE'S SCARCE RESOURCES FOR HOSTING FOREIGN VISITORS IN THIS REMOTE AND DESOLATE PART OF THE COUNTRY WERE HEAVILY TAXED IN LODGING AND FEEDING MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION. EXCEPTIONALLY WARM HOSPITALITY SHOWN, INCLUDING POLITICALLY-DIRECTED POPULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF WELCOME, CLEARLY CONSTITUTED

A MAXIMUM GOG EFFORT TO MAKE THE VISIT A SUCCESS AND  
FACILITATE OUR EXPOSURE TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.  
CROSBY

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